

Promoting British Values at Little Bowden Primary School

The DfE have recently reinforced the need “to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year.

At Little Bowden Primary School British Values are regularly reinforced in the following ways:

We are a Values School and focus on a different value every six weeks. We share this with the children in assembly and continue to work on the value during everyday school life. We aim to demonstrate the focused value all around the school. These values are displayed taught and promoted throughout the school and classrooms throughout each academic year. They underpin our teaching and learning environment and effectively reinforce all aspects of British values education.

Democracy

Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council, supported by the Deputy Head. The election of members is organised for those pupils who wish to stand for office.

Every year pupil, staff and parent’s views are sought through questionnaire, focus groups and drop-ins on a wide range of school matters including enjoyment of school, quality of learning, standards of teaching and behaviour and matters related to safety. We use the outcomes of surveys to make improvements where necessary.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, including those governing the individual, the class and the whole school, are consistently reinforced. The children understand these laws as a code of conduct. They are taught the reasons why rules exist and the consequences on the individual and our school environment as a whole if rules are broken. The children also understand that working within agreed rules brings its own rewards.

At the start of each school year class teachers work with children on our 3 School Rules which are worded and taught in an age appropriate manner.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind British laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make personal choices, knowing that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. We educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering them through education.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

Whether it be through choice of challenge or working partners, choice of how they record their work, of choice of participation in our numerous extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make a wide range of choices.

To support the children with this we have a Senior Leadership Member that works full time on SENDCO and pastoral issues, running Come And Talk Sessions (CATS) and activities during lunch and break times. She also leads groups of children in areas, such as, increasing confidence and self-esteem, conflict resolution and team building.

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Respect is a core value within which our school ethos and behaviour policy are rooted.

Through class, year group and whole school activities and discussions pupils have a good understanding of what respect means and how it is shown. Our class and school rules and our behaviour policy thoroughly reinforce this ethos. Visitors to our school reinforce the importance of respect.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is encouraged through our ethos of respect and through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society. We provide our pupils with opportunities to experience cultural diversity through fostering links with schools in other countries including China, New York, The Gaza Strip and Cambodia. Our international work has been recognised and we received the International School Award from the British Council. In our RE curriculum we study the background and practices of a range of faiths.

Discussions in RE and PSHE lessons at an age appropriate level give pupils opportunities to consider the reasons for and consequences of religious and racial intolerance and prejudice-based bullying.